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SECURITY INFORMATION

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PERTINENT INFORMATION:

Joseph DARNAND, head of Vichy's forces for the maintenance of order, is extending his field of operations. From Savoy he sent detachments in Vaucluse in the Rhone Valley. Now he has swept across the southern part of the country to attack the resistance movement in Dordogne. According to his propaganda, the move is explained by the fact that repression is practically at an end in both Savoy and Vaucluse. There is reason to suppose, on the contrary, that resistance has by no means been stifled there and that in reality its leaders are keeping DARNAND's men on the jump.

In any case DARNAND has his hands full. He has been compelled to bring more and more of his militiamen into action. Several hundred more have been brought to Savoy in the last few days to tackle the "boys in the bush" who proving both very determined and very elusive. In any case, expecting no quarter they are giving none. And so it is likely to prove throughout France. DARNAND certainly cannot be surprised. Probably he is delighted since scrapping is morbid with him, regardless of the opponent. But his troops must be beginning to wonder whether they are being led. So now DARNAND's men must take the lead since he has publicly committed them to the creation in France of an "authoritarian community regime," whatever that may mean, conjoined with a "bold policy of collaboration with Germany."

Yet even DARNAND seems to feel qualms. In 1939 while serving with the French army during the "funny war", he was hailed as a hero for his bold patrols into no-man's-land, when it was the Germans who really dreaded him. Doubtless, remembering this he has seen fit to deny "slanderous rumors regarding collaboration between forces for the maintenance of order and German troops' progress preserve their national character". In other words, French are killing French and no German desired. Which shows to what pitch things have come in France - DARNAND, placed in power by the Germans, actually trying to kick over the traces! Competent observers are beginning to wonder whether he will not be scrapped soon. In any case there are plenty of aspirants for his job. They are ready to bring their troops into action when DARNAND's men come to the conclusion that they have been sufficiently bled.

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